

Atty Dkt: IDF 1422
4000-00400

Patent

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 7, 2003 uses the combination of the Ni Publication (Trading Cooperation to Enable Object Sharing ...) and the Bachmann Patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,188) in each of its rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 (sometimes citing additional references for additional details in the claims). Applicants respectfully suggest that there are claimed aspects of the invention which are disclosed in neither of these references and further that there is no suggestion within these references to combine the references to reach the invention claimed by Applicants.

Each of Applicants' claims call for the storage of persistent information in support of a trading service. Applicants' specification teaches that for a persistent trader service, the association between a service type and an interface or set of interfaces is stored in a data file, and does not disappear once the program which implements the trader service terminates. Applicants' specification further provides that "In its persistent mode Trader will use an LDAP server to store the bindings between the service types and the interfaces and properties associated with the service types. In persistent mode, when Trader is restarted, the offer space is rebuilt with out any loss of information." While both of the above-cited references discuss storage of information, only the Ni Publication discusses storage in the context of a trading service. Further, a review of what is present in the Ni Publication has not turned up any discussion as to whether the storage is persistent, i.e., whether the service type and interface associations persist past the shut down of the service such that upon restart the offer space is rebuilt with out any loss of information. Finally, a review of page 6 of the Ni Publication provides a suggestion that for its storage, Ni is more concerned with tracking past usage of a given object (exported to ... under export conditions n, imported by ... under import conditions m) rather than persisting the offer space through a trader restart.

Additionally, while the Bachmann Patent does discuss provision of directory services to an enterprise environment, as defined in Applicants' specification, a directory service is "a data store which uses a hierarchical, object oriented information model, rather than the relational data model incorporated by relational databases." The focus of the Bachmann Patent is apparently to incorporate the use of relational tables into LDAP compliant Directory Services and providing back-up storage for these systems through relational database management systems. The Bachmann Patent specifically cites that a traditional LDAP-compliant directory service does not provide a "reliable and scaleable enterprise directory, in part because of the use of a [non-relational database] backing store." (Column 1, Lines 57-60). Part of the disconnect with the Bachmann Patent, may be a semantic issue. Where Bachmann appears to use the term directory service to refer to a

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function of "a central point where [services] and applications can inform other entities in the network about their services" (Column 1, Lines 10-12), the present application is referring to directory services as the type of storage interface and storage being provided in contrast with a relational database management system.

As to the combination of the two references, not only have Applicants not found any teaching of persistent storage in the Ni Publication, but the only storage taught in the Ni Publication is apparently the use of relational databases for storage. While the Bachmann Patent does discuss traditional directory services, it teaches away from the present invention indicating their relative lack of reliability and scalability in providing an enterprise directory. In short, on reading Ni, one would not have the idea that persistent storage of the offer space of a trading service is desirable. On reading Bachmann, one would not have the idea that a directory service should be used as a storage mechanism for providing trading services in a distributed environment.

Applicant respectfully submits that in the absence of these connections, there are elements of each of Applicants' claims which are not taught in the cited references, and further that there is not a suggestion in the cited references that they be combined at all to even approach the claimed invention.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 21-0765, Sprint.

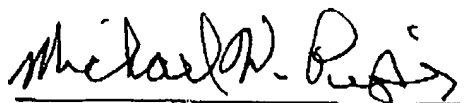
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

Respectfully submitted,

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

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5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 330
Plano, Texas 75024
Telephone: (972) 731-2288
Facsimile: (972) 731-2289



Michael W. Piper
Reg. No. 39,800

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Received from < 989 638 3714 > at 8/7/03 5:00:01 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

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